

bludgeons, daggers, and knives were displayed at the session of the Soviet and each factory reported on its enrollment. It was clear that, unless Trepov sent regular troops to assault the city openly, as some provincial satraps had, the workers would stamp out any attack by the police and their Black Hundreds.

No pogrom was attempted on the day set for it. Later, the government denied that it had planned one. Any doubt, however, was dispelled at the trial of the members of the Soviet, after the revolution failed. Since the Soviet was accused of having armed workers, the defense asked to have officers of the St. Petersburg police and Municipal Council called as witnesses to prove that the workers, with their makeshift arms, had frustrated the planned pogrom. By rejecting this request, the government confessed its guilt.

Prevention of the pogrom added to the prestige of the Soviet, which was sagging under the hopeless campaign for the eight-hour day, but just at that time most serious trouble broke out at the gate of the capital, in Kronstadt, a naval fortress on the island of Kotlin.

#### REVOLT IN KRONSTADT

Unrest had been fermenting among Kronstadt sailors since the summer of 1905. It was rooted in the inhuman treatment of the sailors, their distrust of their officers, the destruction of the Baltic fleet at Tsushima, and rumors about the freedom the Tsar had accorded the people. The discontent came into the open on October 23, when a crowd of sailors assembled in Yakor Plaza, the central square of the city, and decided to present a petition to the Tsar. The petition was put together in a most primitive way. Somebody would jump on the improvised stand and shout, "Make them pay us more!" Another would support him. "Six rubles a month." The crowd would roar approval, and both proposals would be included in the petition. Thus a list of demands was concocted, complete with a plank on unrestricted sale of liquor in the barracks. As the meeting warmed up, political demands were added—freedom for all and government by the people.

So far this was just another meeting, and the military authorities did not pay much attention to it. But, three days later, a marine battalion refused to eat wormy pork. By evening, some of the marines had been arrested and sent to the military prison. A crowd of soldiers and sailors stopped the vans, overpowered the guards, and liberated the prisoners. This incident became the signal for revolt of the entire garrison. Military policemen were disarmed and officers were put under arrest. The rebels, however, did not think of com-